



The Messenger

Vol. 6, No. 11 ~ A Monthly Publication of First Lutheran Church of Fremont ~ November 2011

A place to belong . . . a place to become . . .



Worship Schedule

Sunday, November 6
Blood Pressure Checks
 Guest Speaker—*Ruth Henrichs, Lutheran Family Services*
 8:00 & 9:30 am - Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
 11:00 am - Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion

Sunday, November 13
Consecration Sunday
Shoebbox Blessing
 8:00 & 9:30 am - Traditional Worship
 11:00 am - Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion

Sunday, November 20
 8:00 & 9:30 am - Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
 11:00 am - Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion

Thanksgiving Worship
Wednesday, November 23
 7:00 pm Worship with Holy Communion
Thursday, November 24
 10:00 am Worship with Holy Communion

Sunday, November 27
 8:00 & 9:30 am - Traditional Worship
 11:00 am - Contemporary Worship

Postmaster: Dated Material

Return Service Requested

3200 E. Military Ave., Fremont, NE 68025-5977



Reflections

From the Senior Pastor...

Charlie's Chatter

"Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Consecration Sunday

Sunday, November 13th will be Consecration Sunday at First Lutheran. It will be a time when we are given the opportunity to consider our spirituality in terms of our financial resources. **We need to prayerfully consider what we have received from God and what we are willing to share back for God's mission on earth.** When I say prayerfully, that is exactly what we need to do. We need to engage God in conversation. Only after that conversation are we ready to estimate what we will do in terms of God's mission.

This program invites us to enter into such a dialogue. Yet it does so in a completely non-threatening and non-invasive manner. At the end of Consecration Worship we will bring our Estimates of Giving forward and place them before God. Only you, the financial secretary, and God will know what is on your card.

Our theme for this year is from Luke 12:34 where Jesus gives us an accurate measure of what is important in our lives. He states, "**Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.**" Jesus is telling us that our possessions are so much a part of who we are, that the way we use those possessions indicates what is most important in our lives.

Dr. James Dobson once said, "Our checkbooks are a barometer of our spirituality. Take a look at your checkbook and you will find out what is most important in your life."

In our society money has become an object of trust. Society tells us that the more we accumulate the more secure and satisfying and enjoyable life will be. On the other hand Jesus is calling us to trust God and we will find a secure and satisfying and enjoyable life. Again Jesus tells us, "Where your treasure is there will your hearts be also." If Jesus is right, I am concerned that our hearts have followed our treasures, and we have turned away from God and towards the world.

November 13th will provide us with an opportunity to indicate to God what is important in our life.

In Christ,

Pastor Charlie

First Lutheran Staff

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SHERIE EBERS, KATHY DENKER & HELEN EINSPAHR Preschool Assistants	
BRUCE BARTELS Senior Choir Director	
LAURIE BARTELS Senior Choir Accompanist	
BARB HANEN, RACHEL SAMUELSON & SARA SPEICHER Children's Choir Assistants	
NANCY RIX Bell Choir Director	
BILL MILLER & MILT HAVEKOST Maintenance	
COLLEEN DILLEY, JANET LARSEN, PAM SPEVAK, MARTIN TRAUTRIMAS, & GRADY WELLS Parish Lay Visitors	

Radio Broadcast KHUB 1340 AM
Sundays at 11:00 am

TV Broadcasts Channel 13
Mondays at 10:30am & 6:00 pm
Tuesday, Thursday & Friday at 2:00 pm

WEB site www.flc-ne.org
Follow us on Twitter: @flcfremont

Christian Fellowship will meet on November 4 at 12:00 noon for vegetable soup. Drinks will be provided. Jessica Knopf is will speak on the Crisis Center and Habitat for Humanity.

Second Monday Men & Women meet on the second Monday of the month (November 14). Both groups meet at 9:00 am for coffee and then tackle some of the tasks needing to be done here at the church. Both groups always welcome newcomers.

SOLOs (Fellowship for singles or those widowed) meet at 11:45 am each Sunday for dinner at a variety of places:

November Calendar	
6	Applebee's
13	Wendy's
20	Brass Wok
27	Runza

L.I.F.T. (Lutherans in Fellowship Together) Potluck Group will meet on Thursday, November 17, at 6:00 pm. Note the date change. Everyone is welcome. Bring a dish to share and stay for games and fellowship after the meal.


Resurrection Project: The Resurrection Project and "Rebuilding Together" are teaming up to better serve Fremont residents. The project will be at the home Scott & Bonnie Warner (2100 East 16th St) on Saturday, November 5, at 9:00 am. We will be doing yard work and leaf raking. Scott is a member of First Lutheran and has been affected by a stroke. Join us in this special team effort to provide service to help a neighbor in need.

The Fourth Tuesday Getaways: There will not be a trip in November. Watch for details about the December trip to the Durham Museum to see the Christmas displays.

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Blessing will be held on Sunday, November 13.

Save your Pringles cans for Operation Shield. They will be sending cookies to the soldiers again. The Pringles cans help protect the cookies during shipping. Leave them under the Operation Shield display table.

Church Calendar Items: If you need to put something on the church calendar, please contact Jill Norenberg. She will be able to tell you if the day and space you want to use is available.

 The **North Bend Area Community Band** will be opening their Christmas concert season with a concert at First Lutheran Church, Sunday, November 27, at 4:00 pm. Their repertoire includes some of everyone's favorite religious and secular Christmas pieces. The band is under the direction of Bruce Bartels and includes several First Lutheran members. This will be a great way to celebrate and enjoy the beginning of the Advent Season. A free will offering will be accepted.


THRIVENT MEMBERS: You are invited to: Dodge County Thrivent Chapter Annual Appreciation & Election Dinner on Sunday, November 6, 2011, at 5:00 pm at Redeemer Lutheran Church—601 East Fulton St., Hooper. FREE Dinner and Entertainment. Please RSVP by October 31 to Roger Wing 402-727-0744.

Grief Support Group: Fremont Area Medical Center is offering a grief support group for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. It will be supportive and educational in nature and is designed for anyone 16 or older. It does not matter when the death occurred, everyone is invited. This group will meet for three consecutive Thursday afternoons (November 3, 10 and 17) from Noon – 2:30 pm. There is no cost to attend and a light lunch will be served. Please contact Scott Jensen, FAMC's Chaplain, at 727-3663 for more information or to register.

Tanzania: Fabric, Fun & Facts Workshop

Sunday, February 26 -Tuesday, February 28, 2012
Carol Joy Holling Center - Ashland, NE

This year's feature project will be a "Square within a Square" quilt with ladder sashing. Table runners, placemats or tote bags will also be an option for those wanting a faster project. Kits of 36 six-inch squares of Tanzanian fabric can be purchased at the retreat for \$35. Besides our quilting fun, we'll gather for morning and evening devotions, great food with a Tanzania flair and lots of photos and facts about Tanzania! Bring a friend or come alone. You are sure to leave with great new friendships. Registration is now open online at www.caroljoyholing.org Just select the Events & Retreats button and choose "Tanzania Fabric, Fun & Facts."

 **Mission Trip:** Have you prayerfully considered serving on next summer's mission trip to Tijuana, Mexico to minister alongside children from the "Lily of the Valley Orphanage"? Now is the time to put our ministry into action with a mission trip the Mexican border. We will be leading a week-long camp for children of all ages; full of songs, skits, lessons, stories, prayers, games, and of course *the gospel of Jesus Christ!* All details about the trip will be shared at our introductory meeting on Sunday, December 4th at 1:30 pm. It is mandatory for all those interested in going on the trip. Direct any questions to Pastor Matt.

First Lutheran Youth (FLYs) meet each Wednesday from 7:30 - 9:00 pm in the youth room. All high school age youth are welcome to come. Bible Study, fellowship and games fill the time. Come join in the fun!

November Schedule

2	Small Group Bible Study
9	Nerf Night
16	Small Group Bible Study
20	Turkey Bowl
23	No FLYs
30	GARGON (Come join the fun!)

This year on November 20th at 2:00 pm, you will have the opportunity to watch or participate in one of the greatest events on earth. The 4th Annual Turkey Bowl hosted here at First Lutheran Church. The Turkey bowl is for all ages; those in Middle School and High School have the chance to participate, and everyone else is welcome to become spectators, bring lawn chair or go all out and tailgate. Last year we had around 200 participants. Information, rules, and team forms can be found online at the youth section of the website. Contact Jeremy Hansen if you would be interested in helping.

Lydia Wednesday, November 9 9:30 am
Heritage Room
Hostess: Lucy Klocke
Lesson Leader: Jan Behrens

Faith Thursday, November 10 7:00 pm
Heritage Room
Lesson Leader: Jill Norenberg
Hostess: Beth Meyer

Slightly Bad Girls of the Bible
Tuesday, November 15 7:00 pm

Bad Girls of the Bible
Watch the First Weekly for November's date

First Lutheran Women's Christmas Program, "Angels among Us", will be presented Thursday, December 1, at 7:00 pm at the church by Iris Frey Doolittle. Iris is a professional musician who resides in Madison, Nebraska, where she teaches piano lessons. She graduated from Dana College in Blair in 1978 as a piano major. A stroke robbed her of the use of her right hand at age 28. She now plays remarkable music, and does everything else, with just her left hand. While her story is compelling and offers encouragement to those faced with obstacles to success, it takes a back seat to her music-making. She plays beautifully and her love for the music shines through in every note.

The evening will conclude with a delectable dessert bar served in a celestial atmosphere by Alotta Brownies. Mark your calendars now. You won't want to miss it. Tickets for the event will go on sale November 13 between services. We encourage you to buy a ticket for a friend and include them for this special event. It will be a great way to celebrate the Advent season.

Prayer Shawl Ministry will not meet in November or December. However, yarn, needles or hooks are available if you are interested in knitting or crocheting a shawl. Call Eileen Larsen, 727-1557, for the yarn or Marilyn Freeman for the needles. If you know of anyone that you think would benefit from having a prayer shawl, please let the Pastors know. Long winter nights are coming, so keep those hands busy!!!

The Quilters: Our quilts certainly brightened up the sanctuary on Sunday, October 16.....All 307 of them. Most are boxed up and ready to go to Lutheran World Relief. Some were kept here to be donated to local agencies when needed.

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to everyone who made these quilts possible.....fabric donations, cutters, sewers, fillers, and tyers. Working together great things are accomplished. We are now starting on a new year so more material, flat sheets and light weight blankets are needed. Just bring to church office.

"Cover Girls" no longer exists. From now on we will be called THE QUILTERS....men have become very valuable to this ministry. Any one that can sew a straight seam is welcome to join us. Just pick up quilt squares at the information desk. The Quilters will meet on Wednesday, November 16, at 9:30 a.m. Lunch is potluck. All are welcome.

Adopt a Puppet: We are so excited here at First Lutheran to start our new puppet program; however, we can't start till we get puppets. We have decided to have an Adopt-A-Puppet program. The adoption process is simple and it is easy. All you have to do is pick out a puppet to purchase (see the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall) and make your check out to FLC. We will then order the puppets and they will become a permanent member of FLC's puppet program. You, as a new puppet parent can name your puppet anything you would like. Many people order a puppet to honor someone, remember someone, or just because they want to be a part of this fun, creative ministry. If you don't want to sponsor one alone, families or church groups can pool their resources and sponsor a puppet together. Thank you for prayerfully considering this program for our church. Once you see the puppets in action we believe you will be glad you're a part of this ministry.

Puppets—Looking for a Few Good Arms!

Have you longed for the thrill of the stage? Yearned for the excitement of performing? ...travel?...the challenge of working with your hands while down on your knees? If so, the puppet team would like to give you the opportunity to satisfy those longings and yearnings.



For more information about puppet adoption or the puppet team, please contact Amy Christensen at 319-461-9494 or call the church office.

The Ministry of Healing

Please remember to let our church office know when you are facing a health concern or hospitalization so that our pastoral staff might be in touch with you and you can provide information to share with our whole faith community. When you request, a prayer chain will also be activated. First Lutheran members known to have had health concerns last month included:

Helen Bauermeister, Karl Engdahl, Parker Espinoza, Harold Hanen, Butch Scott, Madison Smutz, Linda Wiese

Deaths

Our sympathy to the family and friends of:

Brinkley Chandler
Arlie Breitbarth, on the death of her husband, Ralph

Baptisms

Easton Cole Charleston October 9, 2011
Parents: Zachary Charleston and Mallory Campagna
Sponsors: Sara Sajevic and Meredith Campagna

Carter Joseph Paulson October 9, 2011
Parents: Josh Paulson and Kelly Stitt
Sponsors: Clinton Paulson and Katie Paulson

the art of 
marriage™
A First Lutheran Church Weekend Retreat.
February 10-11, 2012.
...Because your marriage deserves it.
Registration forms are located at the Ministry Center.



Average Weekly Attendance through September	
2010	2011
633	652

First Lutheran staff prays for five member families at their meeting each week. If you have a specific prayer request for your family, please call the church office to let us know of your concern. The following members and their families being prayed for throughout **November** are:

Matt & Tammy Newill, Brad & Shawn Nick, Lyman & Carol Niebaum, Don Nielsen, Gail & Nancy Nielsen, Jeanne Nielsen, Larry & Joleen Nielsen, Leonard Nielsen, Roger & Susan Nielsen, Vera Nielsen, Adam Norenberg, Dick & Jill Norenberg, Andrew Olson, Lon & Wendy Olson, Nick & Lindsay Osborn, Kurt & Kristy Pafford, Doug & Amy Partridge, Jason Paseka, Keith & Diane Paseka, Mildred Paseka

Veteran's Day and Servicemen and Women prayer:



God of our fathers....From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence make your strong arm our ever sure defense. Your true religion in our hearts increase; your bounteous goodness nourish us in peace. Thank you, Prince of Peace, for all who answered our country's call into battle for the sake of preserving our peace and freedom. Be with our veterans and servicemen and women grant them safe haven in your Gospel promise of eternal life to all who trust in the redemption you won for them on your cross. Keep us all safe in the knowledge. AMEN.

First Lutheran Veterans and Servicemen and Women - WE HONOR YOU.

Don Anderson, U.S. Navy
Richard Arett, U.S. Air Force
James M. Bakken, U.S. Air Force
Gayle Behrens, U.S. Navy
Tracy Beran, U.S. Army, National Guard
Roxanne Botic, U.S. Marines
Roy E. Carstensen, U.S. Army
Bill Christensen, U.S. Navy
Max H. Christensen, U.S.
Mike Christensen, U.S. Army
Richard Coke, U.S. Army
Sid Dillon, U.S. Navy
John Ehlers, U.S. Army
Ron Fechner, U.S. Army
Terry Flanagan, U.S. Air Force
Stanley Freeman, U.S.
Pastor Norm Freund, U.S. Navy
Harold Hanen, U.S. Army
Gerry Hanson, U.S. Army
Jim Hanson, U.S. Army

Delwyn Hasemann, U.S. Army
Delbert Hively, U.S. Navy
Jerry Horn, U.S. Army
Alan Jessen, U.S. Army
Paul C. Larsen, U.S. Army
Doris Keairnes, U.S.
Richard Keairnes, U.S.
Dwayne Klocke, U.S. Army
Jared Kruse, U.S. Army
Joe W. Kubr, U.S.
Eldon Kuntzelman, U.S.
Jim Lewis, U.S.
Jon Ludvigsen, U.S. Marines
Larry D. Ludvigsen, U.S. Marines
Steve Maus, U.S.
Jerry Mcpherran, U.S. Army
Ray Meister, U.S. Army
David A. Millie, U.S. Army
Bill Miller, U.S. Air Force
Herb Nestander, U.S.

Roger Nielsen, U.S.
Stanley Popken, U.S. Army
John Prell, U.S.
Ron Pronske, U.S. Army
Jerry Richards, U.S.
Earnest A. Schafersman, U.S. Marines
Clarence Schakat, U.S. Navy
Merrill "Butch" Scott, U.S. Army
Steve Slykuis, U.S. Marine Corp
Charly Smith, U.S. Navy
Leon Sperling, U.S. Army
Larry Thomas, U.S. Navy National Guard
Garry Tomsaek, U.S. Air Force
Richard Vitters, U.S.
Wayne Wagner, U.S. Army
Bill Wilson, U.S. Air Force/Army
Alan Winterstein, U.S. Air Force
Jamie Wolff, U.S. Air Force



We ask you to include in your prayers the following members and friends of First Lutheran who continue in active service to their country:



AMN Robert M. Blume, nephew of Scott & Bonnie Warner
Cody Carlow, son of Stan and Kathy Carlow
Mikayla Carlson, daughter of Stan and Kathy Carlow
Staff Sgt. Christopher Cerny, son of Steve & Cathy Cerny
Staff Sgt. Jeannie Soto-Cerny, daughter-in-law of Steve & Cathy Cerny
Maj. Jim & Maj. Christina Cook, nephew (and wife) of Chuck & Lorie Peterson
Lt. Stash A. Dwornicki, extended family of Jill Norenberg
SSTT Jeffrey Ebeling, nephew of Darlene Beran
Specialist Stephan A. Fahrlander, grandson of Ray & Myrna Meister
Sgt. John Ferguson, friend of Richard & Tracy Arett
Pvt. Sammi Jo Hajek, granddaughter of Jerry & Joy Horn
LCDC Keith R. Hanson, son of Jim & Mary Ann Hanson
1st Lt. Michael Harper, grandson of Mardell Weitzenkamp
S. A. Sarah Haskins, granddaughter of Larry & Mary Ann Thomas

LCPL Jarad A. Huddle, son of Debra Huddle
1st Lt. Ryan Hurt USMC, nephew of Dave & Kathy Pinkall
Pvt. Jordan Klocke, grandson of Dwayne and Lucy Klocke
Amn Jacob Kohlscheen, nephew of Rick & Deb Sammons
SFC Eldon Kuntzelman, son of Rex and Vi Kuntzelman
1st Lt. Scott Miland, brother of Heather Peterson
Lt. Col. Randall Morris, son of Diane and Paul Morris
ENFN Chase P. Nickels, grandson of Delwyn & Anita Hasemann
Tech. Sgt. Curtis Nissen, grandson of Clarence & Dee Schakat
Capt. Johanna O'Toole, granddaughter of Barbara Lanning
Sgt. Scott Peterson, son of Chuck & Lorie Peterson
Andrew Steffensmeier, nephew of Scott & Bonnie Warner
PFC Mike Warner, son of Scott & Bonnie Warner
LCpl Joshua Wells, grandson of Jerry & Joy Horn
A1-C Benjamin Andrew Wing, grandson of Roger & Shirley Wing



October 4, 2011
7:00 p.m.

The October 2011 meeting of the Church Council was called to order by President Paul Johnson.

Roll call was taken and a quorum of members was present: Pastor Charlie, Pastor Matt, Barry Benson, Daryl Brodd, Wanda Clements, Evelyn Eldridge, Stan Freeman, Marty Gifford, Paul Johnson, Sharon Landholm, Janet Lowe, Pablo McDermott, Judi McKenzie, Kathy Moll, Chuck Peterson, Jon Rensch, Matt Ridder, Nancy Rix, Kevin Smith, Rick Spalding, Kent Speicher and Sandy Trehearn.

Pastor Matt presented opening devotions from Genesis.

Anita Sites from Thrivent Choice gave a presentation on educational workshops provided by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Many of the workshops talk about money management, life events and giving back. These workshops are aimed to help congregations and are approximately one hour in length. There is no cost involved and are educational in nature only.

Secretary's report
MSC to accept the Secretary's report.

Treasurer's report
MSC to accept the Treasurer's report.

Senior Pastor's Time
Pastor Charlie reported that Nathan Strong's ordination will be on October 16th at 4:00 pm at FLC. He also reported that Consecration Sunday will be on November 13th with Erik Boye as our guest preacher. Pastor Charlie also reported that the Nominating Committee will meet on October 5th to work on preparation of the ballot for next year's Council and Endowment nominees.

Associate Pastor's Time
Pastor Matt reported on the "Building on Blessings Mission Tithe" that was presented last month. The task force has met since last month to work on different aspects of this project. A trailer will be needed to store and carry the equipment, so they will look into the cost of the type of trailer they would like to purchase. One of the needs for a trailer is a vehicle to pull it, and they will be looking into various possibilities available for this need.

President's report
President Paul Johnson received thank you letters from the Jefferson House and Nebraska Synod for monetary contributions during September.

New Business
It was noted that October is Clergy Appreciation month and the Council showed their appreciation both verbally and with applause to our three pastors for the wonderful work they do at First Lutheran Church in Christ's name.

Old Business
In regards to the trailer that the "Building on Blessings Mission Tithe" task force is contemplating, it was asked of Pastor Matt to keep the Council informed as to the pricing that they find for the size of trailer that we will need.

Committee time met after adjournment of the council meeting.

Board of Stewards – nothing new on the agenda.

Board of Deacons – nothing new on the agenda.

Board of Trustees – nothing new on the agenda.

MSC to adjourn.

Members of the Council concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Rix



Holiday Stress

Family, friends, celebrations, and travel--the same things that make the holidays special can also be stressful. Common causes of stress around the holidays are traveling with family, scheduling lots of activities, and budgeting for gifts.

To manage holiday stress, set realistic expectations and plan ahead.

Prioritize what is important. By managing your stress you will decrease the risk of other health problems. You will have a better disposition and be able to enjoy spending time with family and friends and they will enjoy spending time with you. It is OK to say "No" to an invitation if you have too much to do.

Find some time for yourself each day. Even when running errands, one can relax with deep breathing while standing in line in a store or sitting in traffic.

Finally, remember the true meaning of the Thanksgiving and Christmas season. Attend worship as a family and give praise and thanks to our God.

~ Kansas Nurse Parish Ministry



The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to needy children around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. First Lutheran kicked off our shoebox ministry on Sunday, October 16. Anyone can pack a shoebox. It demonstrates God's love in a tangible way, meeting a physical need and a spiritual need. We are calling the boxes, "GO boxes", which stands for GOSPEL OPPORTUNITIES because they offer so much more than material things. When the kids get their box, they also get a book with the Story of Jesus and HIS love for them in their own language. Brochures are available at church to see the recommended items to pack. You can also go online and find out much more about the organization at www.samaritanspurse.org. This year our focus is on school supplies as so many children are not allowed into school unless they have the paper and pencils. You can donate online and get a special sticker for your shoebox that will allow you to track where it is delivered.

First Lutheran will bless our shoeboxes on Sunday, November 13. The following days we will serve as a community relay center. If you are able to help, please contact the church or sign up on the green sheets.

Last year First Lutheran collected 331 boxes. This year our goal is 351! Our relay center collected 807 shoeboxes last year and we hope to increase the number from the community as well. Please continue to pray for the ministry of these shoeboxes.



Featured this month are various children's books. You will find these books located on the CHECK IT OUT table. Be sure to browse the "Children/Juvenile" section along the south wall of the library where more wonderful books can be found.

Wonderous Creatures by Dean Jacobs

Fremont's very own, Dean Jacobs, is the author of this newly published children's book. As you explore a world of animals from A to Z, you will see real-life photos and maps of the world. You will discover and learn where each animal lives, what it eats, how big they are, amazing facts, conservation status, and personal stories from Dean. This book is a fantastic way for kids of all ages to explore and learn about the natural world. Full of fun and interesting facts, Dean Jacobs puts his personal touch on every page and makes us want to learn more.

The Pumpkin Patch Parable by Liz Curtis Higgs

This charming story for children illustrates how a loving farmer can turn a simple pumpkin into a simply glorious sight. In the same way, God's transforming love can fill each of our hearts with joy and light. (Gold Medallion Award winner)

Potter by Walter Wangerin, Jr.

This is a wonderful story about resurrection! Travel with Potter, a winsome hero, and a marvelous little oriole on an adventure to the land of Phoenix. This book teaches children of all ages, as well as adults, the much needed message of hope and affirmation.

The Incredible Discovery by Joni Eareckson Tada

When we were young, our decisions were few and simple. As we grow and change, so do our choices. And yet God has called us, young and old, to be faithful in all things--including the small things. Our obedience is a tool He uses to do His work in the world. Author Joni Eareckson Tada shares this essential truth through the story of Lindsey Renee. Together with its vivid illustrations, the book serves as an imaginative resource for teaching this truth to your children so that even at an early age, they will know their decisions make a difference in God's Kingdom.

Miracles . . . Wonders Jesus Worked by Mary Hoffman

In graceful, accessible language Mary Hoffman narrates nine of the miracles that Jesus performed. Each is prefaced with a brief introduction that encourages young readers to relate the story to experiences they may have had, helping children to understand the significance of the miracles to the people who lived them. A useful list of sources tells in which Gospels each story can be found.





A huge thank you to all of the wonderful volunteers who helped out with the Pancake Feed on September 18th. Everyone was so willing to do what needed to be done, and all were so appreciated. What an awesome group of servants for the Lord. ~ Myrna and Ray Meister

The altar flowers were very beautiful that I received Sunday, October 9. Thank you to who sponsored the flowers. They are a joy to look at. ~ Gena Tank

To the Prayer Shawl Ladies: A sincere thank you for the prayer shawls. When we use them it will remind us of God's unfailing love and to the many prayers for Dave's recovery. May God continue to bless you in your shawl ministry. ~ Dave & Shirley Brandert

Thank you to the Pastors, Solo Sisters and fellow members for all the cards, other greetings, and flowers that were delivered to me from the altar after Sunday morning services were over. They are beautiful! Thanks again, Kay Petersen

Thank you to the Altar Guild and the entire church for the flowers from September 25, 2011. The flowers looked so beautiful. ~ Ellen Kay and Tim Eifert

Thank you for sharing the altar flowers with me for my birthday. It is so nice to be remembered by my church family. ~ Anita Hasemann

Thank you for all the help and prayers with the notebook drive. At the September Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization's convention 3012 school bags were made and boxed and shipped to Minneapolis. The goal of 8000 school kits from Nebraska was fulfilled. We never know where in the world these kits go, but we pray that those school bags will be a blessing to the children who receive them. ~ Lucy Klocke

Thank you for the beautiful altar flowers I got for my birthday. That was a nice surprise. Thanks again, Elaine Ross

Thank you goes out to Duane and Judi McKenzie for allowing Operation Shield to hold a hay rack ride at their place on Sept. 25th. Operation Shield and FLYS families had a real good time. About 60 Hay Rack Riders enjoyed the evening.

Many thanks to the mowing crew that once again, proved invaluable! Thanks to: Todd Bernt, Chuck Peterson, Milt Havekost, Max Christensen, Chris Leaver, Jerry Leaver, Charlie Axness, Doug and Sherie Kriete, Dave Poppe, Lance Johnson, Dick Davis, Roger and Blayde Nielsen, Kurt and Kristy Pafford, Gordon McGee, Aaron and Wendy Rix, Terry Meyer, Jeff & Keri Miller and Dick Norenberg.

Thank you to the Trustees for help with removing and putting in the new playground mulch. ~ Preschool Board

Thank you to Three Rivers District Health Department for conducting the influenza immunization clinic Sunday, October 16. We appreciate that First Lutheran is one of six congregations to whom this service is offered annually. Thank you to the fifty-nine people who participated and made the health department's efforts worthwhile. ~ First Lutheran Health Cabinet

Kids Against Hunger Omaha has been busy the past couple of weeks! 80,000 meals left the warehouse to join up with several shipping containers in Cincinnati, Ohio. From there, Kids Against Hunger was able to send 1.2 million meals to the Horn of Africa. This was made possible with the effort of many satellites around the country. The local Salvation Army will be picking up 80,000 meals to help those in need in the Omaha area! We appreciate everyone for helping to make these two distributions possible!

Thank you to everyone for supporting me and joining with me for celebrating the day in which I was Ordained. Throughout the years of preparing for ministry, I have been blessed by the prayers and love that have been shown to me. I am grateful for growing up in this wonderful faith community. I am truly thankful for all saints who have been instruments of God's call within my life. Thank you for your continued prayers and support as I begin the service of Word and Sacrament ministry. ~ Pastor Nathan Strong

Thank you to Brock Ellis who voluntarily put together a wonderful "Welcome DVD Video" for our church's purple gift bags. Brock is certainly gifted with video-editing skills and we are grateful that he shared his gift with us. The video looks great and it represents our church very well. Please express your gratitude to Brock for a job well done!

46 confirmation students worked on assembling and packing 37 layettes (baby care items), 64 health kits, and 222 bars of soap. Along with the quilts all will be taken to Brown's Transfer in Omaha the first of November and then shipped to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in Minneapolis, MN, to be used for persons in any critical need all over the world. Thanks to all the confirmation students, their parents, all my helpers, and any sewers, cutters, packers, Thrivent and anyone who contributed to LWR this year. Let our gifts be a Blessing to others!! ~ Lucy Klocke



	General Fund Pledged Receipts			Building Fund Receipts		
	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011
January	49,293.50	60,553.50	81,706.75	5,514.50	8,808.85	31,417.50
February	56,074.00	49,049.50	49,379.50	17,528.50	2,444.50	17,831.92
March	69,420.91	55,058.50	56,324.25	10,675.50	2,384.50	16,027.50
April	53,784.50	54,138.50	51,404.00	8,251.50	17,988.49	34,446.50
May	57,751.00	55,536.50	63,807.00	16,103.50	78,395.50	8,540.50
June	47,087.50	43,720.50	44,914.25	6,717.50	32,495.60	11,205.50
July	56,191.50	48,696.50	55,418.00	6,113.25	21,029.83	16,879.50
August	56,833.50	54,800.50	43,807.25	6,286.29	9,302.50	15,007.50
September	49,990.50	50,320.50	42,828.50	4,203.50	13,145.50	22,397.00
Total to Date	496,426.91	471,874.50	489,589.50	81,394.04	185,995.27	173,753.42

	2011 General Fund			2010 General Fund		
	Receipts	Expenses	Net Loss	Receipts	Expenses	Net Loss
September	48,270.61	55,075.88	(6,805.27)	55,925.23	63,393.27	(7,468.04)
Total to Date	535,793.56	535,853.87	(60.31)	529,052.18	544,276.82	(15,224.64)

Just when you thought it was safe to coast through the rest of the year, we have our lowest collection month of the year! September was not good, leaving us "in the red" for the first time this year. Expenses were fairly normal, but receipts were way down. However, we are still ahead of last year and hope for a strong finish. Consecration Sunday begins our budget process for the 2012 year. Pledged giving is critical in planning what we have available for the missions and ministries of First Lutheran Church. So please respond faithfully. Sincerely, Kent Speicher, Church Treasurer.

The Starlight Project - Let your light shine!

As a First Lutheran member, you've received this star-cross as a visual reminder to celebrate Christ's light throughout our community.

We ask that you hang it in a prominent place on your house where others who pass by will see it.

Please light your star-cross:

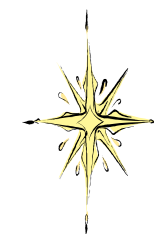
Starting on the First Sunday of Advent, (four weeks before Christmas) - beginning November 27, 2011

During the Twelve Days of Christmas, (December 25 - January 5)

And throughout Epiphany. (January 6 until Ash Wednesday)

On Ash Wednesday, please unplug it—and leave it unlit but in place during the Forty Days of Lent—a quiet, somber time of repentance.

After Lent, light it up again: Starting on Easter Sunday morning and for the Fifty Days of Easter (until Pentecost Sunday, sometime in late May or early June)



During Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, the light represents the bright Star of Bethlehem that led the magi to the Christ Child.

During the Fifty Days of Easter, the light represents the victorious Cross of Christ that defeated sin, death and the devil.



Imagine what an impact we can have on our community, as others (many who do not know Christ) drive around town and see throughout our neighborhoods a regular reminder of the light of Christ shining in our homes, our families and our hearts!

If your star cross is in need of repair, please bring it to the church office so it can be returned to you in time for lighting on November 27.

Our family has had a lot going on starting in 2011. My grandma had heart problems during the winter. In the first couple of months of summer, we had to call the ambulance for my great-grandma and she was in and out of the emergency room, hospital, Merrick Manor and Arbor Manor several times. During one of her stays at Arbor Manor, my grandpa went to the hospital to get a lump checked out. They told him it was cancer like the cancer he had in his kidneys 11 years ago. A few weeks later, my great-grandma passed away just after her 90th birthday party. We feel God does things for a reason. The reason being since this has all happened our whole family has grown closer. The doctor told him he would probably have to have chemo. We are all praying that he doesn't have to because he didn't have to with his kidneys.

Psalm 105:4 – "Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always." I feel this verse fits my life because I know that God is always there for me and that when times are bad, I can look to Him for guidance.

Jesus is my lifeline but why is He important to me? Jesus is important to me because He's my best friend. He would never leave me like most of my best friends and is there when I'm alone. What has God done for me? He did everything for me, showing me how to live life to the fullest, finding my talents.

Jesus is my best friend because He comforts me and protects me. He gave me family that takes care of me and friends who support me. He will do anything for me when I ask him, too. Jesus is always there to help me in tough times. One time I was in Wisconsin for the first time and it rained everyday while we camped outside. Everything was soaked, and the First Lutheran Church in Hayward let us dry our tents. Later we went to the lumberjack festival for the first time and they handed out free t-shirts to us. I thought that was a God moment.

God had done everything for me by letting me go on the FLY trip more than I should have. He showed me that living life to the fullest is by following my dreams. That's what Jesus means to me.

The following students were confirmed in their faith during the Affirmation of Baptism service on October 30. Please pray for these young people and continue to encourage them on their faith journey.



Student	Bible Verse	Parents
Kirsten Asenith Smith-Barnett	Psalm 119:105	Richard & Michelle Barnett
Taylor Leigh Benjamin	Mark 10:27	Nicole Tomasek
Allie Lynn Beran	Luke 1:37	Tracy & Michelle Beran
Taylor Jordan Bodfield	Philippians 4:7	Chuck & Nyla Bodfield
Molly Grace Brown	1 Timothy 4:12	Greg & Toni Brown
Drew Scott Dravland	Psalm 119:105	Don & Lori Dravland
Gina Marie Elliott	1 Chronicles 16:11	Jeff & Connie Elliott
Matt David Grimm	Luke 1:37	David & Julie Grimm
Sydney Paige Harbaugh	Proverbs 3:5-6	Craig & Stacy Harbaugh
Hope Ann Ludvigsen	Psalm 37:4	Jon & Joy Ludvigsen
Kristen Laura McElroy	Luke 1:37	James & Jane McElroy
Connor William McManigal	Luke 1:37	Billy & Michelle McManigal
Mariah Joyce McNulty	Luke 1:37	Ken & Terri McNulty
Austin Garret Raue	Ephesians 2:8	Duane & Tara Raue
Colby LeRoy Sampson	Numbers 6:24	Jared & Marsha Sampson
Brenna Theresa Schmidt	2 Chronicles 15:7	Jim & Lori Lathrop
Taylor Alexis Suhr	Matthew 21:22	Blaine & Sherri Schmidt Dustin & Shelly Everitt Steve & Sonja Suhr
Brycen Scott Svatora	Psalm 105:4	Beth Svatora Chris Svatora
Monika Anne Zuch	Jeremiah 29:11	Brent & Alison Zuch

Taylor Benjamin

Being a Christian has affected my life in many ways. When I was nine years old my grandpa passed away and from that point on being a Christian meant a lot more than just going to church and Sunday school. During that first week of grieving, I think I prayed to God more than I ever have. Mainly I would just ask Him why my grandpa and why so soon. I also asked God to help me get through it because I knew I couldn't do it on my own. After the first year, things started to get better. I knew the pain would never go away, but I knew God would help me get through it.

Still to this day I look back and I realize how much God helped me over the years because if it weren't for Him, I wouldn't be standing here today. When I was three years old, I was diagnosed with leukemia and from that point on my life would never be the same. God has had a real impact on my life by helping me beat the disease and taught me that miracles can happen. I have been cancer free for many years now and it wouldn't have been possible if we hadn't had faith in God.

The struggles that I have had to deal with my whole life have been tough, but with me being able to put all of my trust into God's hands has made it easier. I know that the challenges in life will never stop coming, but knowing that God is on my side I will try to just live my life to the fullest and know that God has got my back.

Mark 10:27 (Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.")

Allie Beran

When I was little and started Sunday School, I just thought Jesus and God were like super heroes that saved the day. As I have learned more about them, I still think they are, but just a little differently. Instead of wearing capes and having super powers, God was up in heaven and sent Jesus, His only son, to die for our sins. To me Jesus dying on the cross for everyone means he loved me so much to actually die for me and that will be the best thing anyone can do for me. I always know God is with me anytime I need Him. When my Grandpa Kuper was about to die, my family and I just wanted him to stop suffering and be okay. I know God answered our prayers because the last thing he said to us was, "I am going to be alright." Right then I knew God was listening. And I know He will always be listening in times of need, even when I don't expect it.

Taylor Bodfield

When someone asked me "what does God mean to me?", it took me a second to think really, "what does God mean to me? Well you could ask a million people and get a million different answers, but I'm not a million people. I'm just one person. God to me is someone very special. Over the years, my relationship with God has grown a lot and it is very strong. When I was younger, my relationship with Him was as good as you could for a child, not very strong. I always remember when I was little, my parents would always wake

us up early on Sundays to go to church. And when I was younger, I always recall disliking getting up and going to church because I never really understood church (and partly because I had a 25 mile drive to get here). But over the years, I've been able to really understand who all these people are and what they did for me. And I've really enjoyed what I have learned through church. Just like Phillipians 4:7 says, "And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Which is right – God has put my heart and mind in the right place.

Molly Brown

Jesus is always with me, even though sometimes I did not know it or even accept it. I have felt His presence the most when I am with my family and friends feeling His love for me through them. I even feel His presence when I am sad and have lost a grandparent or close friend.

Each summer I am lucky enough to go to Camp Rivercrest for a week. I meet amazing people there that are true witnesses of God's love and of the many blessings He has given to all of us. They come from so many different places and backgrounds, yet their love for God and life itself shines through as if they are all the brightest candles.

I am also amazed at how the Zoe ministry has affected my life and my relationship with God. The love I have for the people in my group goes beyond words. It shows me how Jesus is always on my side and guides me to do the right things and to share my love and beliefs with others.

I know that at times, I disappoint Him, but I also know that with His love and grace, I can overcome the obstacles and poor choices I may make. Knowing that God is there beside me, along with my family and friends, has and will continue to strengthen me for the rest of my life.

Bible verse: 1 Timothy 4:12 - Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.

Drew Dravland

For these past few years in Confirmation I have realized more about what Jesus did for us and what He meant to me. To me it means that when Jesus died on the cross He became my hero. I remain faithful to Jesus by praying at night, by going to Church and by helping out if they need me for any service to my church. Being a Christian to me is very important because I know I can always come to church and feel welcome

God has helped me when I needed to find a new path with my friends. He has definitely been there for me. God is important to me because I always know that He will always give me more hope and a better future. Being a Christian affected my life in the past ever since I first started going to Sunday school. I had little knowledge of what Jesus really did for me. However thanks to confirmation and my earlier years in Sunday school, I know what He did for me and how He will help and guide me the rest of my life.

Gina Elliott

At the beginning of my confirmation career at First Lutheran, I didn't really think much of God or Jesus. They were just thoughts to me. I knew I should believe in them because I grew up in the church, and that's what church all about, right? Believing in God and that's it? Well I learned that was definitely not just what church is about. It is so much more. I learned how much God meant to me, and all the things that He did to make my life the way it is – such as giving Jesus to walk on the earth with us. Without Him, life wouldn't be as we know it. Jesus dying for my sins means a lot to me. I will always be grateful for his sacrifice of His life for ours. Even though sometimes I may not live my life according to the Bible, I know if I ask for forgiveness in Him and God, I will receive it. Jesus has always been there for me, so I will always try my best to live out His word.

God has done so much for me, I can't even believe it. He has given me a wonderful family, a nice home, and amazing friends. He's given me a good church to go to, an awesome school to go to, and much, much more.

A big impact that He has made on me is when my small group and I served dinner at a homeless shelter. I saw how little they have and how much we have. I really liked helping them out, and I would do it again in a heartbeat.

At first, God didn't mean much to me. But now, I realize I couldn't live without Him in my life. The Bible verse I chose was 1 Chronicles 16:11 and it says, "seek the Lord and his strength, seek his presence continually." Which is what I plan to do for the rest of my life.

Matt Grimm

To remain faithful in my relationship with Jesus Christ, I will continue to come to church and participate in youth groups. God has done many things for me in my life. He has given me a house to live in and everything I need. He has blessed me with great friends and family, and many different talents.

Jesus dying for me means that even though I do something wrong, God will forgive me and give me a second chance. As long as I continue to believe in Him, he will forgive my sins.

Being a Christian is important to me because it means that I won't just live a life on earth, I will continue life in heaven after I die as long as I believe in God and Jesus Christ.

God is important to me because no matter what happens in my life, I know He will always be there for me, will always forgive my sins, and will always take care of me.

Sydney Harbaugh

The Bible verse that comes to mind when I think of the "My Jesus, My lifeline" is Psalm 105:8, "He has remembered His agreement forever, the promise He made to last through a thousand families-to-come."

This verse goes with the theme because no matter what we do, Jesus will always be our savior and will continue to be forever and He is always there for us throughout our life. For me it is pretty easy to remain faithful because I was born into a Christian family and my family has always been there for me. Being a Christian has affected my life in the past, present and future.

The past because from the moment I was born, my family was right there and lead me towards God. The present because if I wasn't a Christian, I could be making bad decisions in life if I didn't have God to help me know right from wrong. And the future, because as I get older, I will have to make tougher decisions and God will be there to help me make the right choice.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your won understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5

Hope Ludvigsen

Verse 4 in Psalm 37 says, "Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart." I interpret that verse by saying if you believe in God, anything is possible. By believing in Him, He has done many great things for me. He has given me talents – one in particular – figure skating. He is always with me, and sometimes I forget that. But before every competition, I thank God for the talents He has given me and for the desire to work hard for something I love, and something that I want to accomplish. I hope that He will guide me through many more competitions.

Being a Christian has given me the faith in myself to be able to do many things. It has also given me an entire church family. I have met some people here at church that I wouldn't have met otherwise.

I believe in Jesus and that He died for my sins, so I may know that I will have eternal life. That and my family have helped me in my faith journey. I thank my family, and most importantly, I thank God.

Kristen McElroy

Jesus has been a part of my life since I was baptized. I've had many deaths in my family and God has always been there to help me through these times. Many times it was hard to understand why it was happening to me, but God helped me to understand there is a reason for everything. Being involved in First Lutheran through things like confirmation, Sunday School, and Zoe have helped me through the tough times in my life. I have expressed my faith in God by being a part of Zoe for the past two years. It's fun to share our faith with people who have never heard of Zoe. It's good to know that in the future during hard times and good times, I will have God there to help me through everything. When learning about my faith, I am very thankful to have had Teri McNulty and Tami Hall to help me through my confirmation journey.

Connor McManigal

Who is Jesus and what does He mean to you? Well, to me, Jesus means a lot, and hopefully to you too. No matter what, Jesus is always in our lives watching over us. Sometimes people wonder how to communicate with Jesus, and I have the answer. All you have to do is simply pray at least once a day. Praying with Him is a good way to keep a faithful relationship with Him. I know that sometimes we question if Jesus is really there, and even if

(Connor continued...) you don't think He is, you're wrong, because He always is and always will be. I am proud to be a Christian because I can talk to Jesus and God through prayers, and also they are with me all day every day. One thing that's great is that Jesus will never leave you. They are both always there helping you with "the bumps" on the road of life. God is important to me also. He's important to me because He loves me and saves me, but not only that, He will forgive my sins. Everyone that believes in God should have a great life because He loves and cares for any of us that believe, and that is all you need.

Mariah McNulty

Jesus has always been important to me, especially this last year when I experienced the death of my great-grandpa. That was probably the hardest thing in my life. Grandpa Kuper always had a smile on his face and it was contagious. He would come to a lot of our ball games. Grandpa Kuper was also very big in his faith. Even though he went to a different church, he was there every Sunday up until he got sick. When he got sick, it was really hard because I knew it wouldn't be too long until he left us to be with God. The whole week before he died, I knew God was with us and He brought all of our family very close. The last words I EVER heard him say were, "I'm gonna be alright." I still remember it like it was yesterday and will NEVER forget it! At his funeral, all of the great-grandkids sang "Grandpa Loves Me" to the tune of "Jesus Loves Me." we all know this made grandpa smile. This is just one example of when God has been there for me. I know He is always with me especially when I am sad, upset, nervous, and scared. Just like Luke 1:37 says, "For nothing will be impossible with God." Meaning you can get through ANYTHING with faith in God.

Austin Raue

God has done a lot for me this year. He has helped me through a family disaster, through a death in our family, and also helped me with starting High School.

God is very important to me because I go to him in a time of sadness, anger or a time of happiness. I remain faithful to Jesus Christ by going to church and praying. Jesus died for me to take away my sins and for eternal life.

Being a Christian will help me in the future because I will still have God to go to in times of trouble and in times of happiness. Jesus means a lot to me. Being a Christian is very important to me because I have a future with God. He has also helped me to form a closer relationship with my family and friends.

Jared Sampson

My Jesus, My Lifeline. What does this mean to me? This is a difficult question to explain in words. There are lots of times in my life when I have doubted God is really there or really exists. I guess everyone does that at some point in their lives. Like when a loved one dies or something terrible happens. But once you think about it, you figure out it has happened for a reason no matter how big or small. It's all part of our timeline mapped out for us by God. When someone dies, it was their time to go and God has a plan for them

even though it is hard for us to let them go. God is a life leader for me. Like a planner helping me through this speech, because honestly, I have never done anything like this before. He is the only one who can completely recover something. Like when a Dr. heals someone they are not complete healed because they will have the memory of what happened to them. God is the only one who will forgive you your sins. You may think your parents can do everything but they can't. What I am trying to say is that God is the only healer in my life. For instance, when my grandfather died, it was really hard for me to accept. It was the most horrible thing I have had to go through. But I knew God was there for me helping me get through it and it was God's plan for him to go at this time. It made me understand why we go to church and to have more respect for God. Sometimes you have to make sacrifices for good things to happen. God's timeline for me has taught me that He is my healer, my guide and my planner. He means something to everyone and has a timeline for each of us. Have you thought about His and what your timeline and God mean to you?

Brenna Schmidt

As I think of the theme, "My Jesus, My Lifeline", for my statement of faith, I'm reminded that Jesus has always been there for me and I know He always will be.

2 Chronicles 15:7 reads: "But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded."

I know Jesus blesses me with athletic and academic ability. As a freshman, for example, I made the Fremont High School dance team and I have earned many medals competing in gymnastics and track. Getting medals in sports and all A's in school are both awesome rewards: but Jesus dying on the cross to forgive our sins and give us eternal life is the biggest reward ever! That's the main reason I am so grateful to have Jesus in my life.

Sometimes remaining faithful is a challenge when I'm so busy – but then I think of all Jesus does for me and I'm back on track again. I've had great role models to guide me on my faith journey so far – from my preschool teachers here at First Lutheran to my mom, who has been my long-time Sunday School teacher and my confirmation guide, to Tami Hall and, of course, our pastors.

I know that being a Christian has helped me make good decisions and helps me to know when the devil is tempting me. I know, too, that by walking to Jesus through prayer, He will always be there for me...today, tomorrow and always.

Taylor Suhr

In the past few years, several things have happened that I found myself turning to God in prayer. I remain faithful to Jesus Christ by praying and attending church services. Last year, my grandpa almost passed away. I found myself praying more than ever hoping he would get better. Being a Christian affects my life by when I need someone to talk to; I know I will always have God. Being a Christian is important to me because I know God will help me through rough times in my life. Knowing that Jesus Christ died for me makes me know that He loves me. Knowing that God loves and saves me means that I should also love and care for others. God is important to me because He is my savior and I have my sins forgiven because of Him. I will continue to go to church and help in church activities to remain faithful of God.